

Goal 1. Increase regional coordination in the development of nutrient criteria.

N1.1. Convene the Coordination Team and **begin a series of** technical conferences to synthesize **and share** the state of knowledge regarding nutrient levels and develop a plan for regional coordination.

N1:A.1. 1

Identify key state, federal and NGO representatives and contact information for each state and federal partner. (USGS, NERRS, NEPs, IOOS) for technical conference

N1:A.1.2

Schedule and support technical conference that includes presentations on NGNPP, status of pilot database, chlorophyll methodologies, and plan for the larger state of knowledge conference.

N1:A.1:3

Identify the participants and presenters necessary to host technical conference to share nutrient data and information.

N1:A.1.4

Determine funding needs and sources as well as logistics for technical conference.

N1:A.1.5

Develop a plan for regular conference calls and meetings to determine next steps.

N1:A.1.6

Conduct conference Oct-Nov

N1:A.1.7

Disseminate information gained from conference.

N1:A.1.8

Develop regional coordination plan outline for Nutrients Coordination Team comments and finalize by December 2006.

N1:A.1.9

Technical presentation on Chlorophyll methodologies in FI

N1.2. **Use the technical conference to** transfer knowledge gained from the Northern Gulf Estuarine Pilot Project

N1:A.1.1

Use July 2006 meeting to begin discussions on expanding the Northern Gulf Estuarine Pilot Project (NGEPP) to TX and FL.

N1:A.2.2

Schedule a meeting of all 5 states to discuss consolidating the NGEPP approach with the Gulf Alliance Nutrient Coordination Team.

N1:A.2.3

Make NGEPP pilot final report available to Gulf States.

N1:A.2.4

Evaluate and present to the Coordination team opportunities for partnership with IOOS/GCOOS activities.

N1.3. Identify and coordinate federal, state, and local monitoring efforts and data management systems to support development of nutrient criteria.

N1:A.3.1

Survey key stakeholders to identify monitoring programs and data management systems and propose a format and content that best assist states with nutrient criteria development.

N1:A.3.2

Provide forum for states and federal partners to review initial list of programs and discuss status and needs related to monitoring and data need for the development of nutrient criteria. (Oct-Nov)

N1:A.3.3

Develop final report of existing monitoring efforts and data management systems to support development of nutrient criteria

N1:A.3.4

Nutrient Coordination Team will review report and identify gaps in monitoring efforts and data management systems, resources needed to fill those gaps, and key partnership opportunities.

N1:A.3.5

Determine methods to improve consistency and continuity of existing monitoring efforts.

N1:A.3.6

Invite presentations by data holders for a Technical Conference on monitoring programs and data management systems that support development of nutrient criteria (working with Integrated Monitoring and Data Collection Project Team)

N1.4. Present a comprehensive assessment of Gulf nutrient monitoring program needs to the National Water Quality Design Team.

N1:A.4.1

Schedule workshop and a series of conference calls and meetings to review proposed monitoring system design team's report and evaluate its application to Gulf State needs.

N1:A.4.2

Develop methods to evaluate existing monitoring efforts, identify gaps and needs and use contract support to produce a comprehensive assessment that meets the approval of all states.

N1:A.4.3

Work with IMDC Project Team to present Coordination Team's findings to the National Water Quality Design Team.

N1:A.4.4

Based on Gulf resources and needs, prioritize filling monitoring gaps to reach ideal monitoring system for nutrient criteria development

N1.5. Inventory modeling needs to deal with nutrient issues under permitting, TMDL development, and nutrient criteria development.

N1:A.5.1

Use contract support to identify existing modeling efforts and capabilities.

N1:A.5.2

Determine the need for individual state conferences to identify needs.

N1:A.5.3

Share information gained from state conferences in a combined setting.

N1:A.5.4

Incorporate inventory from MS River Modeling Assessment Forum (USACE

N1:A.5.5

Identify strengths and weakness of existing models, especially issues with methodologies, data gaps and missing parameters

N1:A.5.6

Identify applications of existing models based on ecological or regional specificity

N1:A.5.7

Combine with A4 and technical conference for monitoring

N1.6. Develop a library/database of marine and estuarine species for site specific D.O. criteria development.

N1:A.6.1

Develop contract support of this activity in cooperation with the Region 4 Virginian Provenge DO criteria guidance and data

N1:A.6.2

Identify and review existing nutrient TMDL development to evaluate approaches and criteria effectiveness for nutrient quantitative criteria

Goal 2. Develop a clearinghouse of information on successful implementation of Implement nutrient prevention and reduction activities in Gulf communities improving or rebuilding infrastructure.

N2.1. Identify key coastal watersheds with significant nutrient impacts, sensitive waters, and a high likelihood of successful restoration of fishing and recreational uses.

N2:A.1.1

Work with key state leads to evaluate & identify estuaries and coastal water bodies with nutrient impairments.

N2:A.1.2

Utilize state, local and regional recovery efforts to identify possible recovery efforts that might mitigate nutrient impacts

N2:A.1.3

Solicit appropriate representative to present state, regional and/or local rebuilding efforts and priorities at the technical conference.

N2.2. Identify communities' conducting infrastructure rebuilding activities where nutrient reduction can be achieved through improved infrastructure planning and design.

N2:A.2.1

Compile a summary of rebuilding activities in states with significant rebuilding activities.

N2:A.2.2

Work with key state and federal leads to rank or prioritize rebuilding projects.

N2.3. Identify and prioritize implementation and coordination opportunities for existing federal, state, and local programs in key coastal watersheds and communities conducting infrastructure rebuilding activities.

N2:A.3.1

Work with state leads to determine needs for and type of support.

N2.4. Provide technical assistance to interested local governments to improve infrastructure planning and design.

N2:A.4.1

Work with federal partners to identify the array of technical assistance available.

N2:A.4.2

Use contract support to summarize technical support available and provide to state, regional and local contacts.

N2:A.4.3

Evaluate the need to establish additional monitoring activities around areas conducting significant rebuilding efforts.

N2.5. Evaluate the effectiveness of nutrient reduction activities in key coastal watersheds and rebuilding communities and develop techniques to improve effectiveness.

N2:A.5.1

Determine the need for and encourage monitoring programs to document the improvements resulting from rebuilding activities.

N2.6. Map communities served by advanced wastewater treatment systems to help develop strategies for remediation activities.

N2:A.6.1

Develop contract support to gather existing data for each state's coastal areas.

N2:A6.2

Use existing data to determine data gaps.

N2:A.6.3

Develop plan to address data gaps.

N2.A.6.4

Present results to State leads for comment prior to dissemination.

Goal 3. Assert an aligned, five Gulf State position on the need to address Gulf Hypoxia.

N3.1. Assist in the completion of a comprehensive assessment of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan.

N3:A.1.1

MS & LA continue to participate.

N3:A.1.2

Present update on reassessment at first Nutrient Reduction technical conference.

N3:A.1.3 Seek feedback from other states.

N3.2. Help bring focus and expertise to the Gulf region by assisting with the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force Sub-basin Committee Symposium and the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Symposium.

N3:A.2.1

Invite Lower MS River Sub-basin coordinator to participate on the Nutrient Coordination Team.

N3:A.2.2

Include Sub-basin update at the first Nutrient technical conference.

N3:A.2.3

Participate in the fate and transport symposia planned by USGS

N3:A.2.4

Support NOAA conference on long-term integrative monitoring program

N3.3. **Compile** ~~Provide~~ Gulf State information on point and non-point source pollution to the Mississippi River Basin and the ecological and economic impacts of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Zone on natural resources such as fish and shellfish.

N3:A.3.1

Work with gulf and MS River Basin States to assess current data on loadings from significant tributaries within those states.

N3:A.3.2

Use contract support to collect existing point and nonpoint data, determine data gaps, and priorities for filling gaps.

N3:A.3.3

Invite nutrient coordinators from Regions 5, 7 to participate with gulf alliance effort.

N3:A.3.4

Create a map of point and non-point pollution to the Mississippi River Basin that is indicative of contribution and sources

N3:A.3.5

Review original hypoxia assessment document and evaluate as starting point for inventory of point and nonpoint sources to the MS River Basin

N3:A.3.6

Compile summary of regional economic and socio-economic impacts of the Gulf hypoxia zone

N3:A.3.7

Updates on recent research projects and grants

N3.4. **Promote and support** ~~Establish~~ effective agricultural partnerships to better facilitate strategic voluntary nutrient reductions.

N3:A.4.1

Work with NRCS, Farm Bureau and other agricultural interest to identify key participants and solicit their input and participation.

N3:A.4.2

Document success stories in each of the Gulf States.

N3:A.4.3

Use successes as a platform to expand the effort.

N3:A.4.4

Coordinate with advocacy groups like Industry Led Solutions to learn from their on-the ground projects to reduce nutrient inputs

N3:A.4.5

Nutrient trading issue

N3:A.4.6

Sub-basin demonstration projects

N3:A.4.7

Establish website to disseminate success stories, resources, bmps, etc

N3.5. **Document localized and regional hypoxic events to better determine the extent and trends of Gulf Hypoxia in order to develop an alliance position on the impact and importance of hypoxic events on the Gulf of Mexico states. Provide annual forecast of the extent of the hypoxic zone to guide fishing industries and establish a basis for evaluating the validity of hypoxic zone model prediction.**

N3:A.5.1

Work with key state reps on identifying local areas of hypoxia

N3:A.5.2

Work with NOAA to document trends for Gulf hypoxia

N3:A.5.3

Compile information into Gulf position paper